

Serial No. 09/932,809

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAY 03 2006****AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 9-14, 22 and 23.

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An image capturing device for capturing still images,

**wherein the image capturing device can be placed in an audio capturing mode,
comprising:**

a two-stage shutter button;

an audio transducer capable of converting sound into a representative electrical

audio signal;

a processor communicating with said audio transducer and selectively causing

**said audio signal to be outputted by said audio transducer, said processor being coupled to
the shutter button; and**

**a memory for receiving said audio signal, said memory including an audio buffer
capable of continuously storing a predetermined amount of said audio signal and**

**including at least one audio storage cell capable of storing at least a portion of said audio
signal held in said audio buffer, wherein**

**as a result of the image capturing device being placed in the audio capture mode,
said processor causes said audio signal to be continuously stored in said audio buffer,**

**in response to the user of the image capturing device partially depressing the
shutter button, said processor performs a lens focusing and/or flash measurement, and**

**in response to a user of the image capturing device fully depressing the shutter
button, said processor causes at least a portion of said audio signal from said audio buffer**

**to be stored into said at least one audio storage cell and causes the device to capture and
store a still image.**

Claim 2 (Original): The device of claim 1, further comprising an audio conditioning

circuit that performs audio signal processing on said audio signal.

Serial No. 09/932,809

1 Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the image capturing
2 device is automatically placed in the audio capture mode as a result of the user partially
3 depressing the shutter button.

2 Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 1, further comprising a lens and a
3 cover for covering the lens so that the lens is not exposed, wherein the image capturing
4 device is automatically placed in the audio capture mode as a result of said cover being
disposed in a position wherein the cover is not covering the lens.

2 Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 1, further comprising a power
3 switch, having an on position and an off position, for powering the image capturing
4 device on and off, wherein the image capturing device is automatically placed in the
audio capture mode as a result of the power switch being placed in the on position.

2 Claim 6 (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein said processor stores said at least a
portion of said audio signal upon a user input.

2 Claim 7 (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein said processor stores said at least a
portion of said audio signal upon a user input, and wherein said user input is not
constrained to occur simultaneously with an image capture.

2 Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 1, wherein said processor stores said
3 at least a portion of said audio signal upon a user input, and wherein said user input
4 specifies a portion of said audio signal to be stored, wherein said portion of the audio
signal is less than the audio signal stored in the buffer.

Claims 9-14 (Cancelled).

Serial No. 09/932,809

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): An audio capture method in an image capturing device
2 having a shutter button, wherein the image capturing device can be placed in an audio
capture mode, comprising the steps of:
4 activating the audio capture mode in response to a user of the image capturing
device exposing the lens by moving a lens cover that was covering the lens;
6 continuously storing an audio signal in an audio buffer in said image capturing
device only when said image capturing device is in the audio capture mode; and
8 storing at least a portion of said audio signal upon a store command input from the
user.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 15, further comprising a preliminary step of
2 converting sound into said audio signal.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein said store command input
2 comprises a store command input unassociated with any image capture function.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein said store command input is issued
2 automatically in conjunction with an image capture function.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein said store command input is not
2 constrained to occur simultaneously with an image capture.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 1, wherein in response to the user
2 fully depressing the shutter button, said processor immediately causes at least a portion of
said audio signal from said audio buffer to be stored into said at least one audio storage
4 cell.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 1, wherein in response to the user
2 fully depressing the shutter button, said processor waits for a predetermined amount of
time before causing at least a portion of said audio signal from said audio buffer to be
4 stored into said at least one audio storage cell.

HP Docket Number: 10010921-1

Page 4 of 7

Serial No. 09/932,809

Claims 22 and 23 (Cancelled).

- Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the step of storing at
- 2 least a portion of said audio signal upon the store command input from the user occurs immediately in response to receipt of the store command.

- Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the step of storing at
- 2 least a portion of said audio signal upon the store command input from the user occurs a predetermined amount of time after receipt of the store command.